10.

THE JENNER SOCIETY

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMEMORATION

OF THE

JENNER CENTENARY

1896

THE JENNER SOCIETY

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The first object of the JENNER SOCIETY is to counteract the mischievous efforts so persistently made to discredit the name and work of EDWARD JENNER, M.D., of Berkeley, in the county of Gloucester, and to bring home again to the mind of the nation on this, the centenary of his great discovery, the immense benefit he conferred by it upon mankind.

In furtherance of this object the Society will use its best efforts to collect, diffuse, and popularise knowledge in regard to the history of Small Pox before Jenner's time, and to the evidence which has been accumulated, during the last hundred years, of the value of Vaccination as a preventive of that disease, so much of which is embedded in publications which are not available for popular use.

Whilst this will be the first object of the Society, it is felt that, in default of any organisation of a similar character, it may also do useful work in collecting and focussing public opinion, and in promoting discussion on matters which must before long, now that the Vaccination Commission have presented their Report, come under the consideration of Parliament, and that it may thus help to put Vaccination on a more satisfactory basis than that on which it at present rests.

It is hoped that the institution of the Society will thus demonstrate to the country at large that the neglect of Vaccination for some years past in Gloucester and other parts of the surrounding district, which has led to the recent deplorable outbreak of Small Pox, is the work of only a comparatively small number of ill-informed and misguided persons, and receives no sympathy from the intelligence of the County generally, which is not unmindful of the honour that attaches to it as the scene of JENNER'S experiments and discoveries.

The Society has already done useful work in Gloucestershire by the circulation during the recent epidemic of various publications, calculated to counteract the mischievous misrepresentations of local anti-vaccinators with reference, not

only to the causes of the epidemic, but to the need of vaccination as the only means for its arrest. The Report of the Vaccination Committee of the Gloucester Board of Guardians bears witness to the value of this work.

As a result of the publicity which the Society has thus acquired, it has received applications from all parts of the British Isles for its publications, and especially for information as to the teachings of the Gloucester epidemic. The Committee recognise in such applications an appreciation of the importance of the work which the Society is carrying on, and have gladly done their best to comply with them.

This work has been hitherto done almost entirely by unpaid labour, the resources entrusted to the Committee by the contributions of a comparatively small number of residents in the County having been employed in printing, advertising, postage, distribution, and other necessary or incidental expenses. But if the work of the Society is to be carried on continuously, and especially if it is to extend over a wider area than the County of Gloucester, increased expenditure will have to be incurred in providing clerical assistance, office accommodation, and for other purposes, to meet which the Committee must look for larger support, and especially from those living outside the County, who value the discovery of JENNER, and desire to honour his name.*

Should the Committee receive such a general expression of approval and support as may justify them in doing so, they will take steps to give to the Society the form and organisation which such an enlarged scope would demand, in the belief that in no better way can the *Jenner Centenary* be commemorated in this country, than by the establishment of a permanent institution for educating the public in the truth about vaccination, in order that the dangerous spread of ignorant prejudice against the efficacy of JENNER'S discovery may everywhere be refuted and held in check.

Communications may be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, as under,

Dr BOND.
Jenner Society,
Gloucester.

* It is a striking illustration of the difference with which the memory of Jenner is treated in his own country and abroad, that whilst in this year of Grace, one hundred years after his memorable work was commenced, there is no tangible memorial of him but a couple of statues

which are shrouded in an obscurity that certainly suggests to the intelligent foreigner some justification of those who in his native country, as well as in other parts of Great Britain denounce both his work and himself in language that is only applicable to a fraudulent impostor, the most progressive foreign countries are uniting to do him honour.

The **Russian Society** for the Protection of the Public Health, with the special authorisation of the Emperor, have arranged to celebrate the centenary with every mark of honourable commemoration. A special edition of Jenner's works, translated into Russian, is to be published; an exhibition of objects of all kinds, illustrative of vaccination, to be opened; and a "solemn general assembly" (to use the exact words of the Society's notice) is to be held; a history of the introduction of Vaccination into the Russian Empire and of the work accomplished by it is to be compiled and valuable prizes are offered for contributors to this votive celebration. In Berlin also, a thanksgiving festival under the direction of the most eminent German savants, was held on the 14th of May (the day of Jenner's first experiment); whilst in the United States a special Jenner Commemoration was held on May 7 at Atalanta, Ga., by a Joint Committee of the American Medical and Public Health Associations.

In Japan, a "CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION" in honour of Jenner's discovery was held at Yokohama on May 11. More than a thousand persons, amongst whom were Count Higaki, Minister of State for Home Affairs, the Chinese Minister and three *attachés*, Count Sano, President of the Red Cross Society, Marshal Count Noza, the Professors of the Imperial University, and many other persons of distinction, assembled in the Exhibition building in Ueno Park. The Hall was tastefully decorated with flags of different nations, those of Japan and Great Britain being specially prominent. Each guest on his arrival was presented with a pamphlet in Japanese, containing a brief history of the discovery, with an account of Jenner's life, and a portrait. Count Higikata delivered an address in which he referred to the interest taken in the proceedings by their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, both of whom had subscribed handsomely towards the expenses of the ceremony. His Excellency, Sir Ernest Satow, followed with a scholarly address in Japanese, in which he expressed his delight that the memory of his great countryman's discovery was so splendidly celebrated in Japan. Jenner's merits were, indeed, of the highest order, for if he had not made his discovery, many of the beautiful faces characteristic of Japan would this day have been terribly disfigured. The discovery had done untold good to the poor, having rendered the lower classes free from the scourge which had once been their worst enemy. Sir Ernest went on to give a sketch of Jenner's career, showing his perseverance under obstacles seemingly insurmountable, and the manner in which he overcame all difficulties. Jenner's life might be a model for all of us. The meeting lasted two hours, the interval between the addresses being filled with music.

It has since been decided by the promoters of this celebration of Jenner's centenary to erect a statue of the discoverer of Vaccination in Tokyo.

In Sweden, the June number of *Hygiea* is entirely devoted to Jenner and vaccination, containing partly papers that were read at the Jenner Festival, held by the Swedish Medical Association on May 13. It may be remembered that the Swedes were amongst the first people who appreciated the great discovery, vaccination having being made obligatory as early as 1816. Consequently their statistics on the decrease of small pox mortality since the adoption of vaccination are exceptionally complete and convincing; and they further pride themselves on their being "the best vaccinated country in the world." A proposal of amendment of the vaccination laws has recently been introduced into the Swedish Rigsdag, for the chief purpose of making vaccination obligatory.

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Publications issued by the Jenner Society

Fifteen Reasons for believing in the efficacy of Vaccination as a preventive of Small Pox. Price 2d post free.

Vaccination and Small Pox: the Experience of Gloucester.

Another Red Herring across the scent of Vaccination.

Gloucester Small Pox and the Anti-Vaccination League—a Rejoinder.

How the Anti-Vaccination League pervert the truth.

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Small Pox a hundred years ago: An exact re-production of two pages of an old Register of Deaths, kept in the Parish Chapel of Pudsey, Yorkshire, in 1787 and 1792.

What a Guardian thinks of a Guardian's Duties: a report of a speech delivered by the Revd. F. W. Ragg, at the Hemel Hempstead Board of Guardians.

How Gloucester lost faith in Jenner.

One way in which Anti-Vaccinators treat awkward facts.

What do we mean by "Vaccination"?

The Gloucester Epidemic, and how it arose.

Report of the Vaccination Committee of the Gloucester Board of Guardians. pp. 52. Price 3d post free.

(This Report gives a general history of the origin and progress of the recent Gloucester Epidemic.)

Vaccination or Sanitation? By J. C. McVail, M.D., D.P.H.

Debate on Compulsory Vaccination in the House of Commons, May 13, 1893.

The Truth about Vaccination: being a Report on Vaccination as a branch of Preventive Medicine. By Ernest Hart, D.C.L.

Vaccination and Small Pox in England and other Countries, showing that compulsory vaccination is necessary. By Edward J. Edwardes, M.D., Lond.

Vaccination Vindicated. By J. C. McVail, M.D.

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